

for indicating that said bill is counterfeit if said output signal does not satisfactorily compare with said reference information;

wherein said means for storing reference information stores reference information [for a plurality of denominations of bills and wherein said means for storing stores reference information] associated with each of said sensitivity settings for each of [said] a plurality of denominations of bills.

15 ~~16~~ (Amended) A currency authenticator having a plurality of sensitivity settings comprising:

one or more detectors for retrieving a plurality of types of characteristic information from a bill to be authenticated and generating a respective output signal associated with each type of characteristic information;

means for selecting, for each type of characteristic information, one of a plurality of sensitivity settings;

means for storing, for each type of characteristic information, reference information associated with each of said sensitivity settings;

means for comparing, for each type of characteristic information, said respective output signal to corresponding reference information associated with the one of said plurality of sensitivity settings selected by said means for selecting for said type of characteristic information; [said] and means for [comparing] indicating that said bill is counterfeit if one or more of said output signals do not satisfactorily compare with said reference information.

17 ~~18~~ (Twice Amended) A currency authenticator having a plurality of sensitivity settings comprising:

a first characteristic detector retrieving first characteristic information from a bill to be authenticated and generating [an] a corresponding output signal;

means for determining the denomination of said bill to be authenticated;

means for selecting one of a plurality of sensitivity settings, said means for selecting one of said plurality of sensitivity settings selecting said one of said plurality of sensitivity settings based on the determined denomination of said bill;

means for storing reference information associated with each of said sensitivity settings;

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B means for comparing said output signal to said reference information associated with the one of said plurality of sensitivity settings selected by said means for selecting; and means for indicating that said bill is counterfeit if said output signal does not satisfactorily compare with said reference information.

18 ~~20~~ (Amended) A currency authenticator having a plurality of sensitivity settings comprising:

a first characteristic detector retrieving first characteristic information from a bill to be authenticated and generating [an] a corresponding output signal;

means for selecting one of a plurality of sensitivity settings;

means for assigning at least one of said plurality of sensitivity settings to each of a plurality of denominations;

means for storing reference information associated with each of said sensitivity settings;

means for comparing said output signal to said reference information associated with the one of said plurality of sensitivity settings selected by said means for selecting; and means for indicating that said bill is counterfeit if said output signal does not satisfactorily compare with said reference information.

20 ~~24~~ (Amended) A currency handling device having a plurality of sensitivity settings comprising:

20 a first characteristic detector retrieving first characteristic information from a bill and generating [an] a corresponding output signal;

means for selecting one of a plurality of sensitivity settings;

means for storing reference information associated with each of said sensitivity settings, said means for storing reference information storing reference information for each of a plurality of denominations of bills for each of said plurality of sensitivity settings; and

means for comparing said output signal to said reference information associated with the one of said plurality of sensitivity settings selected by said means for selecting; and means for [indicating an error] producing an indication if said output signal does not satisfactorily compare with said reference information.

3045 (New) A currency handling method using a plurality of sensitivity settings, said method comprising the steps of:

retrieving first characteristic information from a bill and generating a corresponding output signal;

selecting one of a plurality of sensitivity settings;

storing reference information associated with each of said sensitivity settings, including reference information for each of a plurality of denominations of bills for each of said plurality of sensitivity settings;

comparing said output signal to said reference information associated with the one of said plurality of sensitivity settings selected by said selecting step; and

producing an indication if said output signal does not satisfactorily compare with said reference information.

REMARKS

Independent claims 1, 16, 18, 20 and 24 are amended above for clarity. New method claim 45 is consistent with claim 24.

There is submitted herewith a sixth Information Disclosure Statement, which it is requested be entered and considered by the Examiner.

Turning now to the rejections of the claims in the present Office Action, all of the claims except claims 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Fish et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,464,787) in view of the Toyocom Currency Counter Model NS-100 (reference J1). Claims 16 and 17 stand rejected over the same references further in view of *Baron et al.*, WO94/16412.

Reconsideration of these rejections is respectfully requested in view of the remarks which follow.

Upon reconsideration, it is noted that applicant's specification describes in Table 1 at page 18 a system in which a plurality of sensitivities are provided for each denomination of currency to be handled by the apparatus or in the method of the invention. Each of the claims as presently submitted is limited in some fashion to the use of at least one sensitivity setting associated with each currency denomination, or for each type of "characteristic information" (claims 16 and 17), e.g., magnetic, UV, etc. It is noted firstly that this consideration is